

**Stephanie Alicea**  
**March 18, 2016**  
**Testimony before the Judiciary Committee**  
**IN FAVOR OF SB 428**  
**Re Funding for Legal Aid**

Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, Senator Kissel,  
Representative Rebimbas and members of the Appropriations  
Committee.

My name is Stephanie Alicea.

I work part-time at Hercules Helping Hands and am raising my  
daughter by myself.

I came to Greater Hartford Legal Aid because I was having  
issues with my custody case regarding my daughter. I have sole  
Custody of daughter and father had limited visitation. He got  
arrested and got the criminal attorney involved in our custody  
case. After that I was lost and I thought I was going to lose my  
daughter. I called everyone to get help but I didn't have the  
money for an attorney. So I called legal aid and an Attorney  
took my case.

My GHLA attorney helped me by explaining what we needed to  
do to keep my daughter safe. Since I got a GHLA I have less

anxiety coming to court. She always contacts me on the different options we have on approaching the situation. I haven't been any happier with the results from not having hope but to have justice and really explain to the judge what was really going on.

If I didn't have Legal Aid I would be lost and scared because of the fact that I thought I would lose my daughter. I would keep coming to court afraid and with no confidence. She really helped understand that in not alone that why we have to court system and the legal ways to do things.

Please support increased legal aid funding because I believe this is a great opportunity

Thank you.